

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 8, 12, 16, 20, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33-35, 38, 42, 46, 50, 52, 55, 57, 59, 61, 133, 134, 140, 151, 152, 158, 169-172, 174, 192-194, 196 and 214 are pending in this application. Claims 2 and 32 have been canceled, and their recitations incorporated into claims 1, 31 and 61; these actions are taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. In addition, Claim 151 has been amended as to a formal matter. Claims 1, 31, 61, 133, 151, 169, 170, 192 and 214 are independent claims.

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of Claims 133, 134, 140, 151, 152, 158, 169-172, 192-194, 196 and 214, and the indication that Claims 2-5, 8, 12, 16, 20, 23, 25, 27, 29, 32-35, 38, 42, 46, 50, 53, 55, 57 and 59 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form with no change in scope. Since as noted the recitations of Claims 2 and 32 now appear in Claims 1, 31 and 61, the latter claims, and their dependent claims, are believed to be in condition for allowance, obviating all outstanding rejections.

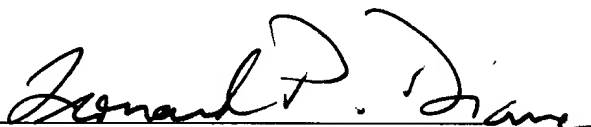
Applicants note with appreciation that initialed copies of the forms PTO-1449 submitted with their Information 'disclosure Statements dated April 2, 2001, and December 20, 2002, were returned with the outstanding Office Action. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner also return an initialed copy of the form PTO-1449 that was submitted with their first Information Disclosure Statement, which was dated September 10, 1999. As a typographical error has been noted in that form PTO-1449 (in that the name of the patentee of the single listed document is misspelled), a copy of the original form PTO-14490, but also a corrected version, are both submitted herewith.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable reconsideration and the early passage to issue of this application are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 29,296

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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